

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01922 060710Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----010259 070216Z /75

R 060631Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7475
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1922

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PBOR LE
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: CHAMOUN ON HADDAD

REF: BEIRUT 1917

1. DURING APRIL 5 CONVERSATION WITH CAMILLED CHAMOUN ON QUESTION DEPLOYMENT LEBANESE TROOPS TO SOUTH, HE SAID SLYLY THAT "WE" COULD PROVIDE 600, EVEN 2,000 SOLDIERS FOR SOUTH RIGHT AWAY. I SAID 600 WOULD BE JUST GREAT. HE SAID MAJOR HADDAD HAD THEM UNDER HIS COMMAND.

2. I NOTED THAT HADDAD'S USEFULNESS WAS SOMEWHAT LIMITED, AND THAT HE AND SHIDIAC HAD BEEN TROUBLE MAKERS, NOT TO MENTION REPORTS THEY WERE GUILTY OF ATROCITIES. CHAMOUN SAID HE REALIZED ALL THIS, BUT WERE IT NOT FOR HADDAD, CHRISTIAN RESIDENTS OF MARJAYUN AND OTHER VILLAGES IN SOUTH WOULD HAVE BEEN MASSACRED BY PALESTINIANS. HE WAS HERO IN EYES OF MANY PEOPLE, AND IT WAS NOT FAIR TO SINGLE HIM OUT FOR PUNISHMENT, OR TRANSFER. HE HAD BODY OF MEN UNDER HIS COMMAND WHO WERE LOYAL LEBANESE AND READY TO FIGHT. THEY SHOULD BE PROPERLY

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UTILIZED.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME IN MY RECOLLECTION THAT CHAMOUN HAS EXPRESSED HIMSELF SO STRONGLY IN SUPPORT HADDAD. HIS ATTITUDE IS GOING TO BE A SERIOUS CONSTRAINT ON GOL'S FREEDOM OF ACTION IN THIS CASE.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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